

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-04 FPC-01 H-01 INR-05

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-02 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 XMB-02 IGA-01

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R 120104Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4471

INFO AMCONSUL PERTH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EINV, OVIP, AS

SUBJ: GOA DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CAIRNS' VISIT TO U.S.A.- WEST
AUSTRALIAN STATE GOVERNMENT VIEW

REF: CANBERRA 7182 (NOTAL)

1. WEST AUSTRALIAN STATE MINISTER FOR MINES AND DEVELOPMENT
TOLD AMERICAN CONSUL IN PERTH NOVEMBER 11 THAT HE IS DEEPLY
CONCERNED OVER CURRENT U.S. INVESTMENT PROMOTION TRIP BY DR.
CAIRNS. THE MINISTER, MENSAROS, INTIMATED HE WAS SPEAKING ON
BEHALF OF WEST AUSTRALIAN PREMIER, SIR CHARLES COURT. HE
FURTHER STATED THAT STATE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT PERMIT ANY
INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN WEST AUSTRALIA UNDER THE AEGIS OF FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT ENTITIES SUCH AS AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY
AEKTOJBNUENT#
CORPORATION OR PETROLEUM AND MINERALS AUTHORITY. MENSAROS
REQUESTED THAT USG BE APPRISED OF THIS VIEW IN CONNECTION WITH
CURRENT WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. CAIRNS.

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2. THIS MESSAGE, WHICH DISPLAYS WEST AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES'

STRONG ANTAGONISM TOWARD PRESENT GOA, IS BEING FORWARDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH MENSAROS'S REQUEST. WE HAVE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR MINISTER MENSAROS, IF HE DESIRES THAT MESSAGE TO REACH THE FINANCIAL COMMUNITY, TO CONVEY IT DIRECTLY TO WEST AUSTRALIA'S U.S. BANKING CONTACTS.

3. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, THIS EPISODE SUPPORTS THE DESIRABILITY OF EXPLORING IN WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS DR. CAIRNS' VIEW OF THE ROLE WHICH AIDC AND PMA MIGHT TAKE IN MAJOR INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN AUSTRALIA. WE NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION CAIRNS' NEW YORK PRESS INTERVIEW REBROADCAST IN AUSTRALIA NOVEMBER 12 A.M. ALLUDING TO AIDC AND PMA IN COURSE OF HIS REFERENCE TO DISCUSSIONS RE POSSIBLE U.S. FINANCING OF UP TO \$1 BILLION OF INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN AUSTRALIA.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE MENSAROS' STATEMENT IS UNDOUBTEDLY ACCURATE RENDITION OF HIS VIEW AND POSSIBLY OR PROBABLY OF PREMIER SIR CHARLES COURT, THE SEPARATE QUESTION OF WHETHER WEST AUSTRALIA WILL IN LONG RUN EITHER WISH OR BE ABLE TO SHUT OUT ALL MAJOR INVESTMENT PROJECTS CONTAINING NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ELEMENT WILL DEPEND UPON FACTORS NOT NOW PREDICTABLE. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR (1) PRECISELY HOW AIDC OR PMA MAY EVENTUALLY PARTICIPATE IN MAJOR FOREIGN-FINANCED INVESTMENT PROJECTS; (2) WHAT OPTIONS AUSTRALIA MAY HAVE; (3) HOW BIG A PRICE IN TERMS OF ITS OWN DEVELOPMENT THIS WEST AUSTRALIAN POSTURE MIGHT ENTAIL; AND ACCORDINGLY (4) WHETHER IT WILL BE WILLING TO PAY THIS PRICE WHEN THE TIME COMES.
GREEN

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED.

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